

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-10 (canceled)

11. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method for enabling a user to provide input values as variables to a running program after said program has begun running and before the program needs the input values, wherein user input values are substituted for program variables during program execution, comprising the steps of:

maintaining a bag buffer of variable/value pairs for use in executing the program in the program;

receiving a communication, including input values, from the user during program execution but prior to the program requiring the values; and

temporarily storing said input values for said variables as variable/value pairs in said bag buffer.

12. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 11 wherein said program subsequently performs a retrieving step wherein said program searches through contents of the bag buffer to locate needed input values before requesting input from said user.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 12 wherein the retrieving step comprises the steps of:
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searching, in the bag buffer, for input values associated with input variables requested by said program;

updating, if found, the input variables with the input values;

disposing, in an input buffer, the input variables, if not found; and

optionally notifying the user via electronic means if no suitable values are found in the bag buffer.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a pager and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a page message to said user.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a beeper and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a message to the beeper of said user.

16. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is electronic mail and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a electronic mail message to said user.

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17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 13 wherein the electronic means is a smart telephone and wherein said notifying comprises assembling and transmitting a message to the smart telephone of said user.

18. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) Apparatus at a computer location ~~for A computer program data structure~~ for use by a mobile agent executing a program at an agent execution shell at the a computing location comprising:

an output buffer for storing program execution output values to be displayed to a user;

an input buffer for storing values based on user input of values for variables required by said program, wherein user input values are substituted for program variables during program execution, said input buffer being accessed by said agent execution shell to communicate values for the input variables to the agent for present use by the agent during program execution;

a program state buffer for storing at least the present state of said program; and

a bag buffer for storing variable/value pairs for later use by said agent in executing said program.

19. (CANCELED)

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20. (ORIGINAL) The ~~data structure~~ apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is an array data structure.

21. (ORIGINAL) The ~~data structure~~ apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is a hash table ~~data structure~~.

22. (ORIGINAL) The ~~data structure~~ apparatus of Claim 18 wherein the bag buffer is a tuple space data structure.

23. (WITHDRAWN) An execution shell for a mobile program comprising:

 a routing component for maintaining routing information regarding said mobile program;

 a processor component for processing user status requests related to said program; and

 an execution component for executing at least part of said program.

24. (WITHDRAWN) The execution shell of Claim 23 further comprising a data handling component for receiving user input and storing same in at least one data structure for said program.

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